(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana was only under proposal stage and was not approved by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) National Highways Development Project is a step towards modernization of National Highways. The project includes 4/6 laning of National Highways with enhanced safety features such as Road Over Bridges in place of Railways Level Crossings, Grade Separators, Road Signages, Road Markings, Crash Barriers etc. The ongoing National Highways Development Project (NHDP Phase I & Phase II) covers about 14,000 km of National Highways. To accelerate the ongoing modernization of roads, it is proposed to undertaken 4/6 langing of about 10,000 km of National Highways with public private parternship under NHDP phase IIIA (4,000 km) and NHDP Phase IIIB (6,000 km).

Establishment of DG of Ports and Jarbpirs

432. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to establish a Directorate-General of Ports and Harbours;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the cost/benefits of this new office have been assessed;

(d) if so, to what extent Government would ensure that ports are not hampered by slow administrative action from Government; and

(e) the details of steps proposed to establish the new office and a separate Directorate of Ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Establishment of a Directorate General of

Ports is envisaged under a comprehensive policy for the Maritime Sector. The policy is yet to be approved by the Government. Since it is planned to delegate powers of the Ministry in part to the proposed new office of the Directorate-General of Ports, it would help the Ports to get faster decisions on many issues, and it would not hamper or slow down administrative action.

Waterway proposals from Maharashtra Government

†433. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra have sent 13 proposals to the Inland Waterways Authority for its approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government would accord approval to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are enclosed as statement. (*See below*).

(c) Five proposals costing Rs. 17.59 crore have already been approved by the Central Government during the financial year 2003-04 and an advance amounting to Rs. 3.36 crore has been released to the State Government. The remaining ones are under examination with Inland Waterways Authority of India.

Statement

Details of proposals of Govt. of Maharashtra under Centrally Sponsored Scheme

(in Rs. crore)

A	Proposals approved in 2003-04	Cost
1	Development of inland waterways from South Mumbai to Amba river/Dharamtar creek at Mandwa & *vice versa*	4.11
2	Development of inland waterways from South Mumabi to Amba river/Dharamtar creek at Karanja & *vice versa*	4.82

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.